Dear Jim, 9/12/76

While walking around to keep from falling asleep it occurred to me you might be interested in knowing a little more about Lonnie Hudkins. I think I'm still having trouble with the supports and I'm experimenting and not as sleepy. It also is too early for bed. I get up early enough as it is.

Like so many conservatives they are genuine. They believe and they practise their beliefs. Lonnie is a good conversationalist, is full of stories and without doubt has been around and through/ much.

He thinks the Hearst papers will go for a series he is working on, CIA and oil. I don't know the details on this connection but it seems to be that the CIA is theirs. He had a recent series that got electronic attention. He's been on the financial desk for a while now. I know he has word that with some oil not being sold at a quarter under the market (Nigeria's, I think he said) the companies have a secret arrangement for a heist from about $12 to $16 a bbl.

He appears to be under constant pressure from Above, to keep his mouth closed. He says the Agency had a man present to monitor his Chruch testimony, which was in secret and is not to be printed. He is visited with some regularity. And there have been a few incidents his son of the same name can't explain. Lonnie thinks some new ones got them confused from the old destriptions of him. He's balding, for example. Paunchier. But the son probably looks as Lonnie once did.

Couple of interesting anecdotes I forgot in the memo to Jim because of this drowsiness that hit me. One is that he was assigned to a robber type who was an old OSS man and got to own Mutual Radio some years ago, Sandy Guterma. Thinks he is of Russian birth. Ran a store or operation in the Philippines and dealt with the Japs, which made everybody hate him. But it was for OSS. Lonnie had quite some files on him. Came to know him well. Genuine flag-waver, too. His explanation of his love of this country broke me up as much as Lonnie said it did him:"Where else could I have done as I have?"

Another was on the long-time FBI SAC Dallas, Gordon Shanklin. Seems he held on as long as he did there because he is a dumdum who was good at playing gold afternoons with the more prominent Dallas leaders. And picking up much information.

Another: George Reedy offered him a job as a Johnson speech-writer in 1964. Lonnie asked how much it paid. Reedy said about $175 a week, which is a little over half the minimum. Lonnie said, "I'm not your man." Reedy wanted to know why."You might not agree if I deny LBJ stole his way to wealth." Click. No goodbye even.

It is sometimes difficult to distinguish between his strongly-held beliefs and what he knows of personal knowledge. My memory is no long good enough to compare. If I asked him he'd say but when he is telling an interesting story I want to hear it so I don t always ask. Sometimes the two blend.

He says the CIA hasn't even closed up its domestic offices and knows they are operating at a number of places, including Baltimore. In Dallas it used to be the quarters under the press club.

It would appear that he is as disenchanted with them now as he once appears to have been enchanted.

His story on him and McCord is that they were both in on plots against Castro and Jagan. The story is that the Agency wanted to get rid of him before JFK disliked him so, over some kind of insult. Once he asked McCord, "Why do we want to kill him? Is that the way?" Apparently the question had not been asked earlier. So, Jagan is alive and out. Lonnie could not understand why anyone paid attention to him in so pipsqueak a country. I don't think it was JFK and I do think the reasons were political. McCord, he says, had set himself up with a nice cover, an insurance agency in Guyana.

From hsi account the CIA had the Russian and Cuban Mexifo City Embassies both bugged and picked Oswald up on both. He says he heard the tapes and Oswald sounded like he was reading lines from a card. Without the description of the manner of speech he had told me part of this before, before he broke the story. Today he told me it was denied immediately and then two days later officially admitted.

Some time back we taped much of this. I've put the tapes away and I don't remember all. Some comes back when we talk.

~~Kxxx~~ For some reason he does not drive. His wife, Mary, drives them when they go anyplace and him when he has to go on work. He still lives in the coutry, in the county he used to cover, and commutes by bus. I guess Mary takes him to and from the bus. It is because he does not drive that he rode so much with Alan Sweatt, who was Dallas' chief criminal deputy sheriff. Often the FBI's Hosty was with them. They were all friends. When he was in Dallas he was the bureau of the Houston Post.

There may be a few liberals around here but we've not met them, except a couple that travels as we can't. But we're lucky with some of our conservative friends and having them has made it easier to be friends with the Mudkinses. We like them and enjoy their visits. This was the first in a while.

I think he said there is a coming out for a new book bym one with a name like Marc Olden. It is in D.C. on the 22d. He'll go now. Says he'll needle Whitten there.

Guess I've revived enough. It must have been these supports. I triedx something different in adjusting them and got over the sleepiness. I think they sometimes cut circulation off or back and that is what causes these periods of sleepiness. These have be to woven too tightly, I think. It tends to pull them down on the legs and around the feet. In time I guess they'll stretch enough.

If you see his series out there I think he'll be interested in the play it gets. Last week he thought they would not carry the stories.

Best,